

Review of: "Tackling Tradition in Education"

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This article is polemical - which is not a problem in itself. However, as someone who advocates community-based learning and critical pedagogy as an antidote to the marketisation of Higher Education, this paper did not deliver. The problem is that a lot of questions are asked about what education should look like but very little in the way of answers. There is a great deal of criticism of 'traditional' education - which may be justified - but this is backed up with a long historical review of the development of education across time and space. What would be more useful is a review of education policy, maybe sticking to UK, which would reveal the logic behind such a rigid approach to education. For me, the paper tries to cover too much ground and often assertive. It is talking globally, historically and across all areas of education. Also, disregarding the use of qualitative methodology on the basis that 'online questionnaires are favoured designs (known as unreliable) with ambiguous questions' is unhelpful. Culture is discussed but without any of the wealth of sociological literature to reveal what a complex and debated term this is. PHD are disregarded and so is any acknowledgement of the deep economic inequalities that blight education. For me the Review section should have been the basis of this paper, dropping the historical overview that did not add to the argument, for me anyway. There is more I could say, but generally I applaud the polemic but the evidence was lacking and the argument spread too thin. Sorry - I tried to be kind.